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That about Samuel Adams
was Governor in 1799 and resided
Winter Street - in a large old father
Wooden House just about where
(1841) stands Dr. Randalls - Mr. Pe
and Mr. Wales Houses. In 1800 Gov
Strong being chosen and the annual
Election Sermon was to be preached -
Procession moved from the Present
State House - Beacon Street, and passed
down Winter Street - when opposite
the Patriot Adams House - Mr. Adams
at his front door made a respectful
bow to Gov Strong - who immediately
left the Procession which however did
halt as soon as it was observed the

Gov. Strong went to Mr. Adams
and with a sincere and hearty
shaking of hands, expressed a few
words and then resumed his
place in the Procession. This was
emphatically a Great Event.
Mr. Adams was a Patriot of the
Revolution and held to his De-
mocratic or Republican Principles
Mr. Strong though not so conspic-
uous a Character - yet he was also
great Spoke in the Revolutionary
wheel - and imbibed and carried
to him in all matters, the Fed-
eral Principles - Thus there - two

Antipodes in Politics, were Brothers
they were Americans, they loved the
Country, and took different Roads
to gather materials for building her
imperishable Frame. Adams Strong
may be in some niche above, looking
down with peculiar satisfaction on
this great and growing - this free
and prosperous Republic.

Thos. Jackson.

Boston Monday Eve

July 8 1841

A very good likeness. F. J.

yes it is capital - April 2 1850 F. J.

(The United States Republic 1957)
(Oct)



HIS EXCELLENCY CALEB STRONG LL.D

elected in April 1814

GOVERNOR of MASSACHUSETTS

for the **TENTH** time

by the

FREE SUFFRAGES of his FELLOW CITIZENS.

Ho! Jackson's

BIOGRAPHY *Boston*

OF THE

Feb 8 1841
5

Hon. CALEB STRONG,

SEVERAL YEARS

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF

MASSACHUSETTS.

BY ALDEN BRADFORD.

BOSTON:

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BIOGRAPHY.

THE respect paid to the memory of eminent men, is alike honorable to the character of the deceased, and of the living. The sentiment which leads us to appreciate the virtues, and to eulogize the worth of the departed, is proof of a disinterested affection, and a love of moral excellence, natural to man. In our admiration of a living character, possessed of extensive influence in society, though his talents and his actions entitle him to distinguished regard, there is much of selfishness, perhaps, mingling with our expressions of applause. But when we gather round the tomb of the departed patriot, who has left no family honors or titles, with which to repay the obsequiousness of flatterers, we render a voluntary tribute to virtue, and show that human nature is capable of the most pure and disinterested sentiments. And it is a fact, which reflects honor on our common nature, that in all stages of society, this feeling has prevailed in the human breast. The refinement, introduced by learning, and the elevation of moral feelings in christian countries, may have tempered the expressions of sorrow for the death of great and good

men ; but the sentiment is essentially the same in all. It is nature which prompts the homage offered to departed excellence. The manner of showing it, is indeed variable. Among a rude and uncivilized people, the ceremonies on such occasions will be ostentatious, and designed chiefly to affect the senses. In a nation fond of heroic deeds, they will be imposing and costly. But in refined and moral society, men will be satisfied with a less splendid, though not less sincere tribute, in contemplating the virtues and services of the deceased, and in exciting to an imitation of their estimable and useful qualities.

This is the notice which a truly good man, if he have any wish on the subject, must desire should be taken of him, when he shall retire from the world. This is the notice most profitable for the living, as it furnishes motives to public virtue, and stimulates to deeds of just renown.

But in selecting the character most deserving of admiration and eulogy, perhaps there is not the same coincidence of sentiment. With many, and those too of generous and lofty feelings, the man of adventurous qualities, and of daring exploits, is supposed to merit the highest eulogium ; his memory to be consecrated with the most enthusiastic plaudits, and his fame extended by durable monuments, or the united voice of millions : while others, who place an equal value on the useful,

but less brilliant actions of the intelligent and disinterested patriot, bestow the same, if not higher praise, on characters, who have rather blessed their fellow men by their virtues, than astonished them by heroic deeds. A people, like Americans, in whom an ardent love of liberty is a national sentiment, will not fail to bestow the meed of merited applause on the hero, who has hazarded his life in defence of his country's rights, and assisted in the establishment of her prosperity and freedom. Such heroism is identified with the nation's honor; and a grateful people will cherish the recollection of such noble deeds with the warmest admiration. The brave men, who have defended their country in the field, not less than the sages and patriots, who consulted its prosperity and peace in the cabinet, are entitled to commemoration, when the scenes of difficulty and danger are over, and the blessings of freedom are permanently secured. We contemplate the character of the former, perhaps, with more admiration, and more enthusiasm: but in considering the character of the latter, we shall perceive qualities as estimable, and equally deserving commendation. The one excites astonishment, like the meteor, which alarms, while it dazzles; the other is beheld with complacency, like a more regular luminary, which sheds a lustre equally benign and brilliant.

A WARREN, who left the legislative hall, and hastened to the field of battle; and there, with an

uncalculating love of country, exposed his valued life, and early fell a victim on the altar of freedom— And a youthful PERRY, who, after surpassing the bravest veterans in hazardous exploits, has been laid low in the tomb, in a foreign land, when engaged in the public service—These shall be remembered with grateful admiration by a free and virtuous people.

But we are now to contemplate the character of a Patriot and Sage, who bore a distinguished part in the councils of the state and nation, during a long period of the most interesting events which have occurred in the history of our country : one, who was associated, in consulting for our liberty and welfare, with an OTIS, a BOWDOIN, a HANCOCK, the ADAMSES, and others ; a glorious constellation of patriots, whose light, we trust, will guide, and cheer, and bless the nation for many ages to come. In reviewing his useful life, there will be found much for the legislator, the magistrate, and christian—much for the public officer, and the private citizen, to commend and to imitate.

CALEB STRONG was born in 1744, at Northampton, in this State, of respectable parents ; and his literary and moral education was such as the pious founders of the State had learned from experience was necessary to render a man most useful in society, and beloved by his fellow men.

He was early taught the importance of obedience to parents and superiors, and his mind imbued with christian principles; and thus a firm foundation was laid for correct habits, and an amiable, gracious deportment in his maturer years. He was as remarkable in youth for filial piety, as afterwards for the mild virtues which adorn and sweeten domestic life.

However this theory of early discipline and subordination may be exploded by many in the present age, it is happily calculated to give to man the salutary control of his passions; and to induce him, while he is careful not to commit acts of personal injustice to others, to maintain the command over himself, and to secure all the satisfactions of self respect. This healthy moral state has been justly esteemed a great blessing by philosophers, both ancient and modern: and is more desirable than even the rare gift of genius, if attended, as it often is, with irregular and ungoverned passions. And this chastised feeling, this discipline of the passions, this self command, is always the result of a religious education—of a well-informed mind and early habits of obedience and subordination.

Thus fortified by religious sentiments and moral habits, he was early sent from the paternal roof, and placed under the tuition of the celebrated Preceptor Moody, the instructor of some of the first

civilians in the State, by whose faithful care he was soon prepared for admission into the University. Here he was distinguished for literary application and a correct deportment, which secured him the esteem both of his instructors and fellow students. For some time, after he left the University, he was afflicted with a disease in his eyes, which prevented that close attention to study, for which he had a laudable desire, and which is so necessary to render one eminent in the profession of the law. This difficulty, however, was so far surmounted, that when he came to the bar, he brought a mind stored with much legal knowledge, and possessed of solid, discriminating powers, which made him highly respectable as a counsellor: And it is understood, that he always had the reputation of an able, upright advocate.

In 1775, Mr. STRONG was one of the Committee of safety and correspondence, and in May 1776, the most important and critical period our country has ever known, he was deputed by the citizens of his native town, to take a seat in the General Assembly of the Province; then just throwing off the shackles of arbitrary power, and assuming the momentous duty of an independent Legislature. There was a high expectation in the leaders of the revolution, in this part of the country, from the talents and firmness of Mr. STRONG. One of the most active and influential patriots of that period,* who for years had been opposing the

* Hon. Joseph Hawley.

despotic measures of the British Parliament and of royal Governors, had already declared, "that he was a promising Son of Liberty :—" And his future conduct fully justified this flattering prediction.

At this critical period, when men of the most eminent talents and patriotism were selected to devise means of defence, he was employed on a Committee, to whom was referred some confidential communications from Gen. WASHINGTON addressed to the government of this state, requiring prompt and efficient measures—And his prudent counsel and decision procured him the esteem of his associates.

It is not known, that Mr. STRONG distinguished himself at this time by any peculiar efforts of eloquence. And he never discovered much of that ardour, which is sometimes necessary in performing brilliant actions; and is often noticed with a greater share of admiration, than it can justly challenge in comparison with a sound judgment and unshaken resolution.

In seasons of revolution, sanguine and ardent spirits, who take no counsel of prudence, and sometimes are liable even to relax in their efforts, are undoubtedly highly useful; they are necessary in attaining an object, which nothing but vigorous actions could accomplish; and are therefore justly entitled to high praise. But among a sober an

moral people, who are attached alike to civil authority and to freedom, as were the people of Massachusetts, those will receive an equal share of respect and gratitude, who proceed steadily and perseveringly on their course in the attainment of their purpose, fearless of trifling obstacles, and guided in all their plans by wise and judicious calculations. WASHINGTON was remarkable for this rare and invaluable quality; and had he been deficient in this respect, the cause he defended would probably have been ruined by precipitancy and rashness. Mr. STRONG was also distinguished for this important talent, so necessary in a Legislator. He was inflexible in the course, which, from inquiry, he was satisfied was the correct one: and no opposition, no popular clamour, could divert him from pursuing the object which his deliberate judgment pointed out as fittest and best.

He was condescending and conciliatory in manner, but firm and resolute in purpose. And we have great reason to rejoice, that there were so many characters of this description among the leaders in our revolution.

In Massachusetts, the opposition to the measures of the parliament and ministry of England was founded in principle. It was not so much, to obtain more power, as to preserve what had long been exercised and enjoyed. With a view to increase the revenue of the nation and to extend the

prerogatives of the Crown, the ministry advanced new and alarming doctrines, which would justify a system of taxation and coercion never before attempted in the colonies. It was early seen, that these measures would be most degrading and disastrous in their consequences : and the high minded patriots of Massachusetts resolved at once to oppose them. But the opposition was conducted with equal temper and firmness. They never denied the necessity of social order and constitutional authority : and by temperate, and judicious conduct produced a separation from the parent country, without suffering the evils of anarchy and misrule.*

* The great attachment of the people to social order, and their desire to support civil government, as well as their reluctance to separate from the British nation are evident from their uniform public declarations at this period and for some years before, while contending for their rights against the arbitrary measures of the ministry of England. And it is to their credit as a moral, reflecting and intelligent people, that when the authority of the parent country was suspended, by their decided opposition to the unconstitutional acts of Parliament, they were still obedient to laws, which had been before made agreeably to the charter ; and early provided a government for all the purposes of Justice and order—In May 1775, the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, applied to the Continental Congress for advice as to establishing a civil government ; in which they stated, “ that the system of Colonial administration, against which they had remonstrated in a loyal and respectful manner, seemed to threaten ruin to the people, unless speedily and vigorously opposed by the united wisdom and force of all America—That, for a long time, by a corrupt administration in G. Britain and here, this colony had been deprived of the exercise of the powers of government, without which a people can be neither happy or secure—That the Colony had been denied the exercise of civil government according to the charter, and the fundamental principles of the English Constitution ; and a formidable army and navy stationed in and near the metropolis, for the purpose of despotism and plunder—That the prospect of deciding the question between the parent country and them, by the sword, gave them the greatest anxiety and pain—And that they declined assuming the reins of government, without the consent and advice of their sister Colonies—That they had been compelled to raise an army, which, with the assistance of the other colonies, they hoped, would enable them, under the smiles of heaven, to defend themselves and all America from the further devastations and butcheries of their implacable enemies—

When a Convention was called in 1779 to prepare a Constitution for this Commonwealth, Mr. STRONG was a delegate from the ancient and respectable town, which he had before represented in the Legislature. This was an important trust ; and was proof of the high confidence of the people in his intelligence, talents and integrity. Of this patriotic body he was an influential member ; and laboured, with other eminent statesmen, in framing this sacred charter of our rights, which has proved an effectual security for the prosperity and freedom of the citizens of this Commonwealth, and a model for most of the other States composing this great

That the sword should, however, in all free states be subservient to the civil power: And that, therefore, they trembled in having an army established here without a civil power to provide for and control them—That they accordingly, in these their distresses, were happy in the opportunity, of applying to the Representative body of the Continent, and hoped to be favoured explicitly with their advice respecting their taking up and exercising the powers of civil government, which they believed necessary to the salvation of the country.” The Continental Congress thereupon resolved as follows, (June 9th 1775.) “ That no obedience being due to the act of Parliament for altering the charter of the Colony of Massachusetts, nor to a Governor or Lieut. Governor, who will not observe the directions of, but endeavour to subvert that charter, the Governor and Lieut. Governor are to be considered as absent, and their offices vacant: And as there is no Council there, and the inconveniences arising from the suspension of the powers of Government are intolerable, especially at a time when Gen. Gage has actually levied war, and is carrying on hostilities against his Majesty’s peaceable and loyal subjects of that Colony; that in order to conform as near as may be to the spirit and substance of the Charter, it be recommended to the Provincial Congress to call upon the people to elect Representatives—and that the Assembly should elect Counsellors—which Assembly and Council should exercise the powers of government until a Governor of his Majesty’s appointment will consent to govern the Colony according to its Charter.”—Representatives were then chosen, and met July 26th 1775 ; and proceeded to elect a Council ; and they immediately exercised the legislative and executive powers of government. The proceedings of the Provincial Congress were confirmed—all necessary officers were soon appointed—justice was regularly administered, and the laws respected and obeyed, tho’ the people were required to make great efforts and sacrifices in support of measures adopted for the freedom and independence of the country.

confederated Republic. When the government of this State was first organized, under this Constitution,* he was elected to a seat at the Senate Board ; and with a Sullivan, a Sumner, a Lowell, and a Phillips, assisted in framing a code of laws adapted to the habits, the genius and the circumstances of a free, an enlightened, and a moral people. In the year 1782, he was appointed one of the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court of the Commonwealth—an office never given but to men eminent for legal talents and high moral character. But from considerations of feeble health and domestic duties, he was induced to decline this honorable appointment. He had previously received the flattering distinction of being designated as a Barrister in this Court, at the special instance of the Judges—For after the revolution it was not a title given of course to gentlemen of a particular age or standing at the bar. The late Chief Justice Parsons received the like honor at the same time.

In turning over the pages of our history, we find Mr. STRONG, in the spring of 1787, placed in another highly responsible situation, by the appointment of the Legislature of this State. A convention was holden at Philadelphia, composed of delegates from all the States, to consider the expediency of so altering and amending the articles of the confederacy, as more effectually to secure the harmony and to advance the prosperity of the nation.

* October 1780.

The defects which experience had fully shewn to result from the confederation, as to great national purposes, and the peculiar state of society in some parts of the country, in which there existed much complaint, and some overt acts of rebellion were known, loudly called for this measure. Those selected as delegates, as might be expected, were men of superior talents, of pure patriotism, of sound discretion and political experience. This State was ably represented by STRONG, GORHAM, GERRY and KING.* The ability, wisdom and magnanimity displayed on that occasion will be ever appreciated by the people of these U. States : and the political instrument, which was the fruit of their patriotic labors, will long remain as the great bulwark of our freedom and prosperity.

Mr. STRONG was also a member of the Convention in this State, called at the close of the same year, to consider and sanction the Constitution prepared for the nation ; and we believe no one had greater influence in removing the objections of honest republicans, and procuring its final adoption in this Commonwealth.

To the most enlightened patriots of our country, this was a period of great anxiety and apprehension. A national government, to legislate for all the States uniformly, to provide for the general defence and welfare, to develop the resources of

* Judge DANA was also chosen, but did not attend.

the country, and to secure peace and order and prosperity at home, and respectability abroad, was admitted by most to be necessary : But there was still a diversity of opinion as to the degree of power to be given to the rulers of the nation, which would, of necessity, abridge the authority of the respective State governments.

The Constitution had been prepared in the spirit of conciliation and magnanimity, in the grand Convention of delegates from all parts of the country ; and was now submitted to the several States for their approbation. From mistaken views of the true nature of the instrument, or from a reluctance at parting with any portion of power heretofore exercised by the State governments, many in this Commonwealth were opposed to its adoption. Every thing dear to republicanism and freedom, every thing valuable in society, was thus put at hazard—and all the energy and perseverance of the most able and prudent statesmen were necessary to prevent the threatened calamity. Had Massachusetts rejected the Constitution ; or even hesitated or delayed to sanction it, it would not probably have been approved by a majority of the States—And it is not difficult to believe that in such an event a scene of great disorder and anarchy would have ensued. It is well known, that Mr. STRONG was active and persevering in his exertions to persuade his colleagues to approve and accept it. And the great rejoicing in this Capital on the occasion of its

adoption here, was at his particular instance and recommendation.

Such was the high reputation of Mr. STRONG, both for patriotism and talents, that he was appointed a Senator of the United States, by the Legislature of Massachusetts, at the first organization of the national government. Here, his extensive knowledge, his sound judgment, and his political ability, were justly appreciated; and he was appointed one of the Committee which devised the Judiciary system of the Union. He was respected for his talents, and esteemed for his amiable deportment during the whole period of his congressional service. And in procuring the ratification of the treaty made by Mr. JAY, with the British government in 1794, his efforts and influence were readily acknowledged.*

This was a season of great popular excitement. The *feelings* of the people were addressed, their prejudices were called into action, and the most incorrect and erroneous statements were made on the subject; so that few, who had the foresight to perceive, were willing to risk their popularity in avowing the advantages to be derived from accepting and confirming the treaty. Though Mr. JAY was highly esteemed for patriotism and ability—and though WASHINGTON, then President

* Mr. STRONG had previously advised to the measure of sending an Envoy to England.

of the United States, possessed almost unlimited influence till that period—yet such were the intrigues of the ambitious, and the precipitancy of the uninformed, that it required all the talent and all the decision of the truly patriotic, to ensure the ratification of a compact, under which the nation afterwards rose with rapid strides to a state of unexampled prosperity. Mr. STRONG had the honor of being ranked with those individuals, by whose exertions it was finally accepted and confirmed. He was aware of the popular odium which would be cast upon him for a time ; but this did not deter him from discharging the high duties he owed his country, whose destinies were committed to him, and those then associated with him in the councils of the nation. He was satisfied of the correct course to be taken—And, as in all his other public acts, he pursued it without halting or hesitation.

Mr. STRONG was eminently qualified to be a useful member of a deliberative assembly, and the legislator of a free and enlightened people. He had much legal knowledge, was well acquainted with the history of our own country, and that from which we derived our laws, customs and institutions—was a proficient in general literature, and in the physical sciences ;* and was endowed with

* He was one of the founders of the Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the Historical Society of Massachusetts. He also had the degree of L. L. D. from Harvard University.

sound discriminating mental powers. It was not his aim to perplex and confound an adversary by subtle distinctions, or logical deductions, like DEXTER;—nor had he, perhaps, the powers to excite an electric thrill through a popular assembly, or a community, by flashes of eloquence, like AMES;—yet he was not less eminent as a statesman than either. For, in correctness of judgment, and in firmness of purpose, he was equal to any one among the many great men, who have appeared in our nation, for the last fifty years.

We have thus noticed the eminent virtues of Mr. STRONG in various stations of public trust and responsibility—in all which he was distinguished by talent, integrity and patriotism—by a faithful discharge of his high duties—by activity and perseverance—and by a peculiar firmness and decision of character, which only intelligence and virtue combined could produce. We are now to contemplate him as the chief Magistrate of this great Commonwealth; exercising a parental care over this extensive family, and guarding, with a watchful vigilance, their interests, their privileges, their prosperity and peace.

In 1800, Mr. STRONG was called to the gubernatorial chair, without any exertions of family connexions, or influence of personal friends, or intrigues of expectants for office. For as yet we had not learned to persecute for political opinions, or to

gain votes for rival candidates, by the promise of mercenary rewards. And Governor STRONG was the last man in the State to use such arts that he might rise in the political scale ; or to repay those who should contribute to his elevation, from such unworthy motives. When first chosen governor, he owed his election to the unsolicited voice of the substantial yeomanry of the State, who knew his worth, and were satisfied of his ability and patriotism. He continued in this high and honourable office for seven years ; increasing in reputation and popularity, for the greater portion of the time, as a wise, impartial, and upright statesman. And though afterwards, in a season of uncommon party feelings, he was superceded by one sharing more largely in the popular favour, he was never accused, even by his political enemies, of inattention, or imbecility in his administration—nor was his patriotism or integrity ever called in question. He had no ambition to retain the chief seat of power in the Commonwealth ; and he retired to the bosom of his family and friends, there to enjoy the repose most congenial to his pure affections—and not like a disappointed politician, eager for public honours, to engage in intrigues and cabals, to destroy the peace of society and the State.

In this state of retirement and of domestic repose, he had hoped to pass the remainder of his days : for he was not only unambitious of political honors, but was approaching that period of life, at which

he had intended to relinquish all public concerns. But providence had yet high and arduous duties, for him to perform—And we must again contemplate him at the head of the Commonwealth—and that too, at a season of peculiar embarrassment, when the public mind was agitated by great anxiety and alarm. His election to the office of Chief Magistrate, in 1812, inspired confidence in all classes of people—For it was believed, that he possessed, in an eminent degree, the qualities of intelligence, and experience, of patriotism, prudence and firmness, so necessary for the crisis which was approaching. It was believed, that he would not sacrifice the rights of the people or the State to a thirst for power or popularity, or jeopardize them by rash councils. No one knew better than he did how to distinguish between the national and State authority; or how to adjust the balance between them, in cases where each seemed to have claims to obedience. The warlike attitude in which the nation was placed by the general government, and the subsequent call upon the individual States for co-operation and aid, when the *necessity* of war was not perceived, and the Constitution of this Commonwealth imposed obligations, in discordance, in some degree, with the demands of the national authority—this state of things produced a trial, from which any one of less firmness would have shrunk with dismay. In this part of the country the war was unpopular—and Gov. STRONG was one of those, who believed that it was not *necessary* to the liberty or the true

honor of the country : and that such a measure should be the last resort of a people, when danger was great and imminent. His measures were in strict conformity to these sentiments. And however unfortunate it was for him to differ in opinion from many other able Statesmen in the country, and however liable he might be, like other men, to err in his policy—it is due to him to say, that he was most sincere and conscientious ; and his views most disinterested and patriotic. His great object was the good of the country and the welfare of the people : and no popular clamours, no fear of opposition could divert him from his purpose. It would be difficult for any one not much with him, at this critical period to imagine how anxious he was to know the just course to be pursued. He was desirous, indeed, of supporting the honor of the nation—and of preserving the people from even temporary alarm and danger. But he was equally desirous, to maintain Constitutional principles, and to arrest the ravages of war.

But while he was true to the rights and interests of the citizens of this Commonwealth, he declared his readiness to aid the views of the general government, where its authority was clearly paramount to that of the State, and the precise requisitions of our own Constitution did not forbid. And accordingly, the most effectual measures were taken for the defence and protection of the State. The public orders issued by him, as commander in chief of the militia of this Commonwealth were ap-

proved by men of both political parties, as wisely calculated to moderate the passion for war in individuals, and to prepare the military for effectual resistance in case of invasion.*

It is unnecessary, at this time, to give an opin-

* In a letter written by Gov. STRONG in August, 1812, to the Secretary of War, he says, "I have no disposition to interfere with the measures of the General Government: but if the President was fully acquainted with the situation of this State, I think he would have no wish to call out the Militia into service in the manner proposed by Gen. DEARBORN—I am fully disposed to afford all the aid to the measures of the National Government which the Constitution requires of me—But I presume it will not be expected or desired that I shall fail in the duty which I owe to the people of this State, who have confided their interests to my care."—In his Speech to the General Court, Oct. 1812, he observes, "Altho' many of the most important attributes of Sovereignty are given by the Constitution to the government of the United States, yet there are some which still belong to the State Governments. Of these, one of the most essential is the entire control of the Militia, except in the exigencies above mentioned: This has not been delegated to the United States—and is therefore reserved to the States respectively. And whenever it shall be taken from them, and a consolidation of the Military force of the States shall be effected, the security of the State Governments will be lost; and they will wholly depend, for their existence upon the moderation and forbearance of the National Government. I have been fully disposed to comply with the requirements of the Constitution of the United States, and the laws made in pursuance thereof, and sincerely regret that a request should be made by an officer of the National Government, to which I could not constitutionally conform. But it appeared to me that the requisition for the Militia was of that character—and I am under the same obligations to maintain the *rights of the State*, as to support the Constitution of the United States. If the demand was not warranted by the Constitution, I should have violated my duty in a most important point, had I attempted to enforce it, and had thereby assisted in withdrawing the Militia from the rightful authority of the State." In his Speech to the Legislature, May 1813, this is his language; "We are bound to obey the laws made in conformity with our Constitutions: But these Constitutions ensure to us the freedom of speech: and at this momentous period it is our right and duty to inquire into the grounds and origin of the present war; to reflect on the state of public affairs and express our sentiments with decency and frankness; and to endeavour, as far as our limited influence extends, to promote, by temperate and Constitutional measures, an honorable reconciliation. By an unnecessary war, the deepest guilt is incurred: And, therefore, every belligerent nation should inquire which of the contending parties is chargeable with this guilt." More might be quoted to the same purpose, from the public addresses of Gov. STRONG at this period. And we ask, who can require greater proofs of patriotism and intelligence, of integrity and public virtue?

ion, as to the correctness of the policy of Governor STRONG in the early stages of the late war with Great Britain : and it would be improper to refer in detail to the measures and events of that critical period. Feelings might be excited, which we certainly wish not to be instrumental of calling into operation, for a moment. Yet justice to the character and motives of Governor STRONG requires us to declare, that he was convinced of the correctness of the course he pursued, and that his public acts were the result of deliberate and dispassionate enquiry : And there are those who believe, that if the insipient policy of his predecessor had been pursued—had *ten thousand* of our militia, been embodied and organized, as a standing army—or marched away to a distant part of the nation for the purpose of aiding in conquering a foreign territory, the people of this State, without distinction of political party would have risen in opposition to the measure. For so far, in truth, were the rulers and leading characters of the Commonwealth from setting the citizens in array against the measures of the national government, that all their influence, all their prudence and firmness were necessary to prevent decided and overt acts of disapprobation.*

* It is well known that the *restrictive measures* began by Mr. Jefferson in 1808, and continued by Mr. Madison, by which the navigation of the New-England States was incalculably injured—an embargo laid for an unlimited period—a disposition manifested to provoke war with England, and to connect our destinies most closely with France, then governed by an ambitious, unrelenting despot—the oppressions and sufferings occasioned by this course of policy, had alienated the confidence of the people in this part of the country, from the general government, and produced an unhappy jealousy, as to its future views. When war

In a late period of the war, when the state of the country was materially changed, and there was real danger of attack from the enemy, the measures of Governor STRONG for defence were prompt and efficient; and the whole body of the patriotic militia of Massachusetts were found in preparation to meet any force which was likely to be brought against it. And we believe the time is coming, when the high ground taken by Governor STRONG, as to the authority of the individual States, not clearly given to the general government, and the obligations of the rulers thereof to support that authority, will be seen to be necessary, not only to preserve the rights of the people of each State; but to maintain the legitimate powers of the national Legislature, and the harmony of the whole confederated Republic.

In 1816, when the tranquility of the country was

was declared, and long protracted, without sufficient reasons as the people believed, without objects worthy of the struggle, or likely to be attained, direct taxes laid, commerce almost annihilated, the militia armed, an opinion prevailing, whether founded or not, that our national rulers were opposed to all foreign intercourse and trade: In this state of things, it is a fact not to be denied, that the citizens became highly irritated, and greatly exasperated against the administration of that period. And it would not have been a difficult attempt to raise their passions to such a degree as to have produced a formidable and systematic opposition. But the rulers of this state were too patriotic and too great lovers of union to assist in any such unjust measure. It was then their great object to restrain and moderate the feelings thus excited. When Governor STRONG ordered the militia in Maine to be placed under a general of the United States army, four fifths of the officers, though of the political party attached to Mr. Madison's administration, remonstrated against the plan, and threatened to return home, unless a different arrangement should be made. In the vicinity of Boston, the militia were called out to act in concert with and in subordination to the United States forces, in defending the metropolis from threatened invasion.

established, Governor STRONG bid adieu to public concerns;* and sought, in the family circle and in private life, the quiet, to which his inclinations urged, and his age entitled him. And there, in reflections on the happy state of his country, in religious meditations, and in the tranquil pleasures of domestic life, he anticipated that blessed state prepared for the righteous in a better

* The sentiments inculcated in his last public Address to the Legislature, January, 1816, are worthy of perpetual remembrance, and afford abundant evidence of his ardent patriotism, and his superior political sagacity. "The careful education of youth is an object of the highest importance, as well to the government, as to every individual; a due regard to it, is the most effectual method to prevent the commission of crimes, and uphold order and just authority. At this period, when they are most susceptible of virtuous impressions, if they are left without cultivation or restraint, they will entail upon their country an endless series of mischiefs. But if their minds are enlightened by education, as they advance in life, they will understand and duly estimate their rights; they will be able to judge of the characters and motives of men; and distinguish between the honest zeal of patriotism, and the intemperate heat of party spirit; and will acquire such information, as will enable them to exercise the rights, and perform the duties, of citizens of a free government with steadiness and discretion.

"From the ease with which new regulations may be introduced, we are in danger, perhaps, of treating the ancient forms and usages of the State with too little respect. The people, generally, have a peculiar attachment to those laws and customs which have been long established; and conform to them more from habitual regard, than through fear of punishment. Unnecessary additions to their number, or frequent alterations, would diminish their authority, and lay a foundation for a multitude of litigious suits. While, therefore, we encourage a spirit of genuine improvement, let us do justice to the usages which we and our fathers have approved, and guard against a temper of unceasing innovation. Let us cherish those principles of government, and those systems of education, which have been derived to us from our ancestors; and especially the institutions which have a tendency to preserve in the minds of the people that reverence for the Deity, without which, neither public nor private virtue can subsist, nor the welfare of a community be secure.

"A state of peace is highly favourable to the improvement and prosperity of the people, and affords the best security for the continuance of their freedom.—When war is at an end, if we persist in personal resentment, and endeavour to perpetuate a spirit of enmity against a people for whom our government professes friendship, we manifest a depraved

world : and in November last, was, suddenly, as a good man, in such a state of preparation must desire, taken away from the cares and duties and trials of this earthly pilgrimage, to partake of joys "which eye hath not seen, nor ear heard," and adequate conceptions of which never entered the human mind.

It is believed, that the *public* character of few of our patriots and statesmen would, on review, appear more deserving of respectful recollection, than that of Governor STRONG. If he possessed not the most brilliant, we may justly claim for him the most useful and estimable qualities. If there was little of boldness or novelty in his conduct as a politician, there was certainly much of sound judgment, of foresight and of decision, so requisite for

and malevolent temper; such conduct cannot proceed from any honourable motive; it is equally unjust and impolitic, and can only tend to transmit our odious passions to future times, and entail upon our children implacable hatred and never-ending hostility.

"On this occasion, gentlemen, will you indulge me in a few remarks which relate chiefly to myself. If we had been in a tranquil state during the last four years, I should not have been a candidate for any public office; but having been again called upon, I hoped to be capable of performing any service, that might be assigned me, until our affairs should be in a more peaceful train, and the difficulties which embarrassed the government of the state should be diminished. That period is now arrived, and the infirmities of age make it necessary for me to retire, as soon as conveniently may be, from public business. Permit me, therefore to say to you, gentlemen, and through you to your constituents, that I decline to be a candidate for the office of Governor at the next election. I thank my fellow citizens for the many proofs they have given me of their confidence, and especially for their candour, in doing justice to the motives by which I was influenced in the course of the late war. I hope the people of this State, will in all future times be united in sentiments of mutual good will; and may the Almighty who protected our fathers, be the guide and defence of their children, in this and every succeeding generation."

a chief magistrate, that he may support the authority of the laws, and the dignity of government, and at the same time secure the confidence and respect of the people. His opinions and measures were the result of impartial inquiry : and he had the honesty always to avow his sentiments, and the courage to act up to them, through "good report and evil report." He never sacrificed his opinions to obtain or secure the popular favor : and yet in cases, where the correct course to be pursued was not so clearly seen, and where he was not alone responsible, he was ready to accommodate his conduct to the general views of his fellow citizens. But that thirst for popularity, which leads men to act contrary to the convictions of their own minds, or to neglect their duty, to avoid censure or reproach—to this unworthy passion he was altogether a stranger. And when urged to assist in measures which he believed unjust, merely because they had the popular voice to commend them, or promised a transient glory to the nation, he declined without hesitation ; and might have justly said, with an ancient Jewish ruler, "So did not I, because of the fear of God."—He was, indeed, peculiarly qualified to rule over a free, a moral and religious people. He had much of the principles and manners of the early puritans. And, perhaps, no one, since the days of the venerable *Winthrop*, the first governor of this infant state, has approached nearer, in all respects, to the character of that great civilian, and distinguished christian magistrate.

But we should fail in doing justice to the highly estimable character of Governor STRONG, if we confined ourselves to a review of his *public* conduct. Here, indeed, the virtues of the man, as well as of the patriot and statesman, were often displayed. For his official duties were performed under the influence of correct moral principles and upright intentions. His *private* character also will bear the closest scrutiny : and we need not fear, as in some instances, when eulogizing the great ones, who have acted with applause on the theatre of public life, to draw the veil which separated him from the eyes of the world. Oh, no. We may be as inquisitive as we choose, we may follow him into retirement with his family, and we shall still have cause to admire, to respect and to love the man, who, though he had great influence in the councils of the State and among the rulers of the nation, was there, humble, condescending, mild, cheerful, just, temperate and *devout*. In the regulation of his passions, he exhibited proofs of being governed by the holy influence of the gospel of Christ. Though possessed naturally of quick and powerful feelings, he had a happy control of his affections—and it is the testimony of his most intimate friends, that he was never known to be discomposed by violent passion. He gave evidence, in fine, that he was a sincere and conscientious christian ; and the various duties and graces which it requires and generates, were habitually performed and exercised by him, in all the relations of private life. . He was a

religious man, not in name and profession merely, but in *deed and in truth*. No one was less ostentatious, or made less *shew* of his religion. But it was an active, all pervading principle, by which his whole deportment was regulated and sanctified. Who that ever observed him in the house of God, or when elsewhere engaged in acts of devotion, and did not perceive the marks of great sincerity, of deep humility and ardent piety? And to the faith and piety, he added the catholicism of a christian. Though his own sentiments were maturely formed, and not likely therefore to be materially changed, he had candour for those of all sects and denominations, who appeared sincere in their opinions and were correct and exemplary in their conduct. He had too much knowledge of the human mind and was too enlightened in his views to consider true religion to be confined to those of any particular communion, however exclusively correct they might profess to be in their opinions, or however earnest their claims to infallibility.

Such was the great and good man, whose recent death the citizens of this Commonwealth deplore, and whose memory we wish to cherish with respect and veneration. Even among eminent men, he was distinguished for wisdom and talents—and even among good men, he had just pretensions to superior moral excellence. For the long period of *forty* years, he was chiefly engaged in public duties, and he was placed in some of the most honorable

and responsible stations in the Commonwealth and nation. Few have had the opportunity to effect so extensive good for their fellow men ; none have been more faithful in their efforts to secure and promote it. The magistrate may reflect on the character of Gov. STRONG, and be taught to unite moderation with firmness; the patriot—and learn to temper ardour of feeling with practical wisdom and discretion : the christian—and behold whatever is just, sincere, amiable, and of good report.

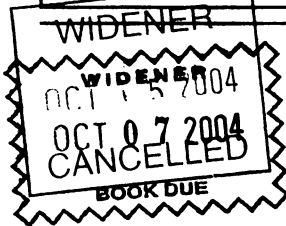
Governor STRONG is not the only eminent statesman and patriot in our country, who has been lately removed by providence to another world. Many to whom we are indebted for our inestimable privileges, for our highly valued situation, as a free and independent nation, have lately been called away from these scenes of their usefulness and labours. But they have left us in possession of the richest blessings. They have left us also the recollection of their principles and virtues. Let us attend to the instructive and monitory lessons which they furnish. For so long as their principles and their examples have influence and are observed, so long shall our country be free, prosperous and happy.



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